

JRA Newsletter – Spring 2019

Introduction

Every year the Jesmond Residents' Association (JRA) sends this newsletter to every resident in Jesmond in order to make contact, inform you of some JRA activities and invite you to join linkmail so that you can receive all Jesmond news by email. Your email address will not be disclosed, and you will no longer be ignorant of all the amazing things that go on in Jesmond!

Special features in this issue are a report on the Christmas activities on Acorn Road, the Council's proposals for the Banqueting Hall in Jesmond Dene, news on Keep Jesmond Clean and the Streets for People programme. We also have updates on Anti-Social Behaviour, Jesmond Library, Planning and the monthly Foodmarket on Armstrong Bridge.

If you are a student with concerns do please get in touch as we are keeping an eye on the problems faced in relation to rented housing.

We would like to thank the North and South Jesmond Ward Committees for providing Grant Aid to support the publication and distribution of this newsletter.

Nils Clemmetsen – Secretary

Anti-Social Behaviour - George Gibson

Since the start of the 2018/19 academic year Operation Oak has funded Police patrols on Fridays, Saturdays & Wednesdays during term time, with additional patrols at busy times, such as Freshers' weeks & Christmas. Despite the additional patrols there doesn't appear to be an improvement in residents experience of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

In addition to reports from permanent residents, ASB has also been reported by university staff & students who are unable to sleep or study because of noise from partying student neighbours. One dangerous escalation, a resident has had a piece of concrete thrown through a bedroom window, while on the same night an adjacent student property had bottles broken against the windows. Another development has been parties starting in one evening & continuing into the next evening.

There is no reason for Jesmond Residents to suffer from unacceptable ASB, the Police are very responsive, but they can only respond to what is reported. The landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupation HMO's are obliged

to prevent ASB, again they can only respond to incidents that are reported.

As JRA we are writing to landlords with repeated incidents of ASB, this appears to be having a positive effect, as landlords do not wish to lose their HMO licence.

If you're experiencing ASB please text Operation Oak on 07504 898148, or ring 101 when Operation Oak is not operating, or if a very serious incident ring 999.

If you need any advice or assistance reporting ASB please email jesmondasb@gmail.com.

Christmas Events – Kathy Cunningham

Thanks to all the amazing people who turned up to celebrate the lighting of our Xmas Tree in the spirit of Challenge 100 in memory of the centenary of the Armistice. Jesmond folk did us proud as they turned up in their hundreds to celebrate the true meaning of Xmas at our event on Acorn Road.

There were youngsters, students, the elderly, families, ex-service men and women as well as local businesses singing loudly around our Acorn Rd Xmas Tree. This was one of the highlights of my Xmas. My thanks must go to Jesmond's little angels and cherubs from West Jesmond Primary School. I actually saw people with tears in their eyes as we all listened to the youngsters singing about love, peace and celebration. It surely was an amazing event and I felt very proud of our community. Our voices were heard and we, like the tree, shone bright, lighting up the night.

We would like to thank the North Jesmond Ward Committee for providing Grant Aid to support the Christmas Tree lighting. Please get in touch if you would like to help with this year's event.



Keep Jesmond Clean

Litter Picks

There have been 4 litter picks, including the one for Plastic Freedom Day on 3rd Feb.

October we were at the Cricket Club and November at the British Legion – both events were well supported and we were very pleased to see so many students turning out (39 at Cricket Club of whom 21 were students and 32 at the Legion – inc 12 students). The University of Newcastle Student Union RAG pick on the 30th Jan saw 100 students clearing streets East and West of Osborne Road and into Jesmond Vale.



Out and About

In October, volunteers went house to house with a short survey asking residents about bin capacity and their access to bins. We surveyed 119 households in 6 streets of which 90 were rental properties each with 4-8 tenants. Of those 90 households 90% had an inadequate number of both waste and recycling bins. KJC also went door to door in a further 12 streets, distributing bin calendars with information about recycling and how to manage bins. In conversation with student tenants of HMO households it became clear that very few households had their own bins, resulting in tenants placing rubbish and recycling in any nearby bins which have space. This information formed the basis of a joint submission from KJC and JRA to Newcastle City Council commenting on the proposed conditions for Additional and Selective Licencing of HMO's

On December 29th, 9 volunteers walked off some Christmas calories on a back-lane audit, reporting incidents of fly-tipping for clearance by Envirocall. The system works--- the lanes were cleared within a couple of days!

Plastic Free Jesmond and Sandyford's Plastic Freedom Day on 3rd February was a great success. The Day, which kicked off with a litter pick, took place at the Star and Shadow and included speakers from individuals and organisations keen to remind us of the damage being done by plastics to our environment, as well as how we as individuals can take action to bring about positive change. The day also featured an indoor

market place where a range of local small businesses selling plastic-free goods and organic food proved really popular. The event rounded off with a screening of 'Albatross', a film about birds in the Pacific whose bodies are filled with plastic waste.

Glorious Gardens Group

Jesmond's Glorious Gardens Group is set to give a make-over to the pocket gardens in the streets off St George's Terrace. Working with a team of students from Newcastle University's Eco Society the group will lend tools and muscle power to tidy and plant up any neglected plots.

The Glorious Gardens Group, part of Keep Jesmond Clean, also organises an annual Glorious Garden competition, open to any resident with a small garden they're proud of. Prizes will be awarded at this year's Jesmond Community Festival.



This popular competition will be judged by local garden experts during the Jesmond Festival in May.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and a runner up.

Students' Gardens – no size limit

Residents' Gardens – approx 2.5 m x 4m

Closing date for entries: Sat 4th May 2019

Send your name, phone number and address to: Greeningjesmond@hotmail.com

JRA Committee 2018-2019

Elected at the AGM on 6th September 2018

Chair – Kathy Cunningham

Treasurer – David Etchells Secretary – Nils Clemmetsen

Hannah Evans Sarah Kettle

George Gibson (Anti Social Behaviour)

Appointed Committee Members

Alan Grant

Jeannie Davison

Eileen Strouzer (Banqueting Hall)

Lord William Armstrong and the Banqueting Hall Proposals

Eileen Strouzer

Lord William Armstrong, inventor, scientist, engineer, sometimes called “The Magician of the North” created an industrial powerhouse on the Tyne, employing 25,000 people at its peak. He built the Banqueting Hall on Jesmond Dene Road and re-engineered Jesmond Dene to embrace it. He gifted the Banqueting Hall and Jesmond Dene to the citizens of Newcastle in 1883, and his Deed of Gift states that the Banqueting Hall should be used for activities related to the arts, literature, science and education.

Newcastle City Council, the trustee for the Deed of Gift, is proposing to delegate responsibility for Jesmond Dene and the Banqueting Hall, transferring it to the newly-constituted Newcastle Parks Trust. The City Council is seeking to remove the restrictions imposed by Lord Armstrong’s Deed of Gift, which will then allow the Parks Trust to develop the Banqueting Hall and Jesmond Dene as the Trust may choose. There is serious concern that such a development strategy will lead to further fragmentation of Jesmond Dene, with further “selling off” of individual buildings.

Loosening the links between the Dene Estate and Lord Armstrong’s legacy will destroy his vision and clearly stated wishes for their purpose for the benefit of the People of Newcastle. Instead of removing the restrictions of use of the Banqueting Hall, a new strategy could be moved forward to enhance, improve and restore this unique building for the benefit of the City in accordance with Lord Armstrong’s wishes and one which the people of Newcastle truly take part in developing.



Jesmond Library: Update Spring 2019 Sarah Breakey



We are very pleased to report the continuing success of Jesmond Library.

Jesmond Library which is organised and operated by volunteers continues to be a thriving, welcoming and diverse Community Hub, as well as a Public Library offering books, coffee/tea, newspapers, free WiFi and the People’s Network Computers.

A Beautifully crafted New Central Desk



As a 5th Birthday present to ourselves we have installed a specially commissioned central desk in the library, which as well as being a welcoming and attractive feature in itself will be easier to move to the side for events which require more space. It provides much needed storage and an excellent work station. The desk, made from French oak was designed and constructed by Nick James in his workshop in the Ouseburn Valley.

Regular Events

Mindfulness, Camera Club, Story Telling, Play Reading, Community Singing, Holiday Activities for Children, Italian, Greek, German, Spanish, French and Mandarin Conversation Classes, Well-being for the over 50’s, Poetry appreciation, Art appreciation, IT Drop in sessions, Languages for children, Music and Singing for children, Philosophy, Current Affairs Discussion Groups and many, many more.

Thursday Talks from 6.00pm – 7.00pm continue to cover a wide range of topics and take place regularly. They are run by volunteers in aid of the library.

Further details of opening times and events see www.jesmondlibrary.co.uk

Visit the Library and get a friendly welcome from the volunteers and appreciate all that this valuable community resource has to offer – right in the heart of Jesmond!

Planning and Development

Nils Clemmetsen

The JRA continues to take a keen interest in planning matters affecting Jesmond. In particular we maintain our interest in restricting the number of family dwellings being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and generally register an objection where a change of use or increase in size is proposed. The council generally refuses new conversions to HMOs and these decisions have been upheld when appeals have been lodged.

Over the last year planning applications have generally been for extensions to private residential properties. The last big changes in Jesmond have been associated with the reuse of the buildings vacated by the formation of the Newcastle High School for Girls. The largest of these developments is on Eskdale Terrace where the construction is about to start.

We provide advice on planning matters to residents where we can, recently helping Fernwood Residents with landscaping proposals for the neighbouring property that would affect them.

It is good to see that the eyesore at 46 Osborne Road has finally been renovated after length building works.

Streets for People - Nils Clemmetsen



The Streets for People project aims to help neighbourhoods identify opportunities for making walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of travel easier, safer and more attractive.

Jesmond was one of the areas of the city selected and has been allocated £1million. Following public consultation and the development of plans by an urban designer a number of schemes have been selected by local Ward Councillors to progress to formal consultation and delivery. Some of the schemes that might have made the biggest difference are currently not being pursued. The JRA Committee is concerned that the schemes currently selected will only use about half of the budget.

For further details see:

www.streetsforpeople.org.uk/jesmond

Contact the JRA via

Nils Clemmetsen (Secretary)
3 Bemersyde Drive, NE2 2HL
secretary@jesmondresidents.org
Tel: 0191 2814769

Kathy Cunningham (Chair)
chair@jesmondresidents.org

Food Market

Jesmond has many great shops and restaurants for those who like good quality food, but for those new to the area we would really point your attention to the monthly Jesmond Food Market. It's held on Armstrong Bridge over the Dene on the third Saturday of the month. The next market will be on Easter Saturday 20th April.

The market has around 30 stalls each month, with producers of bread, fruit and vegetables, meats, sweet treats, drinks and cheese. There are some of the region's finest producers offering produce and you will struggle to get better in Newcastle! In addition, there are street food stalls where you can sample the produce from some excellent local restaurants and well as food from other smaller producers to tempt your taste buds.

The market is a great place to stock up the fridge and freezer for the next few weeks with superb food. Then you can stop for a bite to eat; be it a burger, a wrap, noodles, dumplings, salads, pies, sausages.

So, make sure you note the dates and come along to the next market; I guarantee it'll be a treat!



Funding of the JRA

The JRA operates on a voluntary basis; however costs such as newsletter production and venue hire are unavoidable. If you would like to make a donation by cash or cheque this can be sent to the secretary. Alternatively you may wish to set up a standing order; forms are available from the secretary. The suggested household annual donation is £10.